

REMARKS

Request for Reconsideration

Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action, but remain of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the attached replacement sheet, the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 4-6 and 8-11 are allowed, while claims 1-3 and 7 had been rejected based on prior art. Claim 1 has been canceled herein and claims 2, 3 and 7 have been amended to be dependent upon allowed claim 4.

Thus, claims 2-11 are pending and all claims are either allowed or ultimately depend upon allowed claims.

Drawing Objections

The drawings had been objected to because the annular groove had not been shown as being annular.

Figure 1 has been amended herein to show annular groove 2k is annular. Annular groove 2k is now shown in both the upper portion of outer ring 2 and the lower portion of outer ring 2. Thus, Figure 1 now shows a sectional view of the groove which forms a ring.

Groove 2k, is described in the specification as annular and is shown in Figure 2 as annular. Thus, replacement Figure 1 contains no new matter.

Rejection 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Asberg (U.S. Patent 3,757,883).

Claim 1 has been canceled herein. Claims 2, 3 and claim 7 have been amended herein. Claims 2, 3 and claim 7 are now dependent on claim 4 which has been acknowledged as allowable by the Examiner. Respectfully, this rejection is now moot.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account Number 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP

By: 

Christina M. Jordan, Reg. No. 61,098
Attorney for Applicant(s)
475 Park Avenue South, 15th Floor
New York, New York 10016
Tel. (212) 661-8000 Fax (212) 661-8002

DCL/JRW/CMJ/ns